1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1g,

Sociological Background

FAMILY

000 [815] Sociology was not taught at Tartu University as an independent discipline, so there were few sociological studies made in independent Estonia. Since statistics are lacking, the following will be an impressionistic, general description of the family and its role during Estonian independence with some parallels from Communist-occupied Estonia.

369 592 The extended family is not often found in modern Estonia. The single or nuclear family has been prevalent in urban communities, whereas in rural families one could oftener find cases where three generations lived together. Setumaa was a place of large joint families.

593 The duty of grown children was to care for their aged parents.

000 592 their aged parents. It was a fairly common practice on Estonian farms for the old folk to build a house for themselves in the vicinity of the farm's main buildings and to leave the latter to the newly married son or daughter. Among the joint families in the cities one could usually find the widow or widower living with children and grandchildren, but when both grandparents were living, they usually had their own household. A widow more often resided with her married daughter than her married son. The trend in modern times has definitely been toward [162] the single family. Since the beginning of World War I, a decline in the size of the family has been taking place, the usual number of children 462 being two or three. Mothers in middle-class [565] families often worked as teachers, clerks or nurses, using hired help at home. There were

592 In general, the family pattern in Estonia
362 underwent the same changes as it did in the Western world. Rural families, as compared to city ones, were more conservative. In the former a more patriarchal authority was preserved, whereas urban families were more democratic, especially in those cases where the husband and wife both worked outside the home. But the husband's legal supremacy still existed; the property in the family belonged to the husband unless the couple had legally separated it.

168 The primary function of the family was to rear physically, mentally and morally healthy children. This was done in co-operation with the school, the church and the community. The State and the community were concerned during the years of Estonia's independence with the decline in the size of the average family. Bonuses for working parents in case of the birth of

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

593 858 own children who in their childishness may betray them, or who may become real Communists.

592 Little time is left for the old type of family life. The school-age children are busy with extra-curricular activities and the parents have compulsory duties after their day's work; indoctrination meetings, some "voluntary" duties, etc.

Nevertheless, the family is still the basic social unit in the Soviet state although it bears traits of disorganization. Deportations have made many broken homes and with the collectivization of agriculture the patriarchal Estonian farm family has become a thing of the past.

SOURCES

113 Rajamaa, Herman. The Moulding of the Soviet Citizens. London, 1948.

like them built on the ground or on stone foundations, have low walls, a heavy, high, gabled roof with turrets and wind-boards, cut out windows with glass panes which with rare exceptions have replaced the sliding windows (Figure 11). The house is divided into living room, threshing floor, and bedroom; in the first, which usually has no floor, is the open hearth with the kettle-hook over it. A container of resinous pine chips stands on the window sill or on a corner shelf. Sometimes it is simply inserted without stand between two beams of the wall. The cradle hangs from the ceiling "Linde /or: Linden beams/ had often rocked the cradle with songs" (Kalewipoeg). The beer jugs which resemble northern forms also belong to the household utensils. The Estonian usually settles in individual homesteads which are surrounded by fences of slanting poles. The gates swivel on twisted willow bands. A series of buildings stands here together: barn; kiln /Riege oder Darre/ for drying grain--because otherwise the fall rains would spoil much of it--which in the winter is at the same time living room and kitchen; summer kitchen; bathroom--as in Lithuania people bathe in hot steam which rises from heated stones sprayed with water. The bather lies on the sweat-bench and cools himself by beating himself with a bundle of tender branches of birch leaves which is dipped in cold water.

342 [415] 592 343 515

/21: Illustrations./

/22/ The Estonians.

II.

1. Woman from the island of Ruhnu, which is here represented as the bridge to the north. 2.-7. Women's hats and hair styles. 8.-9. Silver ornamental disks (sölg, paternoster). 10. Costume from the island of Muhu. 11.-13. Silver ornaments, particularly large breast plates. 14. Implement for twisting rope. 15.-23. Patterns on woven belts (wö). 24. Hatter's bow (tool for cleaning wool). 25. Piece of a runic calendar. 26. Settukesi costume, dress with striped sleeves, blouse with woven inset, bandana. 27. Costume from Muhu. 28. Woman's overcoat of white wool. 29. Blouse with inset. 30. Belt from Hiiumaa made of leather and punched brass.[1]

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Nos. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15-23, 25, 26, 28, 30 are in the Museum für Völkerkunde in Lübeck.

[1] [For illustrations, see 1: Karutz, E1 Europe, cat. 116, p. 17a --Analyst]